

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-8 (cancelled)

1           9. (original) An apparatus for producing a friction  
2 plate having oil grooves communicating between the internal  
3 periphery and the external periphery, by fixing friction  
4 material segments formed from a friction material to a core  
5 plate, the apparatus comprising:

6           means for punching the friction material of a band  
7 shape to obtain plural friction material segments;

8           means for holding said friction material segments by  
9 stacking on a metal mold or a jig and pushing said friction  
10 material segments in succession to a side opposite to said  
11 metal mold; and

12           means for pressing and adhering said friction material  
13 segments to said core plate;

14           wherein said oil grooves are formed by plastic working  
15 of said friction material and fixation of said friction  
16 material segments with predetermined gaps therebetween to

17 said core plate.

1        10. (original) An apparatus for producing a friction  
2 plate having oil grooves communicating between the internal  
3 periphery and the external periphery, by fixing friction  
4 material segments formed from a friction material to a core  
5 plate, the apparatus comprising:

6        means for punching the friction material of a band  
7 shape to obtain plural friction material segments;

8        means for holding said friction material segments by  
9 stacking on a metal mold or a jig and pushing said friction  
10 material segments in succession to a side opposite to said  
11 metal mold; and

12        means for pressing and adhering said friction material  
13 segments to said core plate;

14        wherein said oil grooves are formed by cutting of said  
15 friction material and fixation of said friction material  
16 segments with predetermined gaps therebetween to said core  
17 plate.

Claims 11-12 (cancelled)

1        13. (original) A friction plate formed by fixing

2 friction material segments formed from a friction material  
3 to a core plate and having oil grooves communicating  
4 between the internal periphery and the external periphery,  
5 wherein:

6       said oil grooves are formed by fixing said friction  
7 material segments with predetermined gaps therebetween to  
8 said core plate and then effecting cutting.